
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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Keep Gasoline from Your Drinking Water

Gasoline is one of the most dangerous products commonly found around the home, yet people sometimes use it and store it with little care. Some of the more toxic chemicals in gasoline that have been found in gasoline spills can contaminate your drinking water well or public water supply.

How to Protect Your Drinking Water from Gasoline

Avoid spilling gasoline on the ground, especially near wells.

- Keep refueling and engine work away from water supply wells. Do the work over a concrete floor or similar barrier, and immediately clean up any gas or oil spills.
- Don't top off your tank when filling your lawn mower, snow blower, etc.
- Don't drain gasoline from these machines onto the ground.
- Don't ever use gasoline to burn brush.
- Don't use gasoline as a weed killer.
- Don't pour gasoline down animal burrows.
- Don't use gasoline as an insect killer.

Avoid spilling gasoline in lakes, ponds, and rivers

- Fill portable tanks from outboard engines on shore, not near water. If you own a larger boat, make sure it has no-spill tank vents.
- Keep special gasoline-absorbing pads on your gasoline-powered boat; know how to use them.
- Refuel snowmobiles and ice augers onshore; do not take gasoline storage tanks onto ice-covered ponds.

Store gasoline properly

- Use a clearly labeled container made for gasoline, with a spout to avoid spills.
- Keep gasoline containers in a dry, well-ventilated shed or detached garage away from water supply wells. Don't keep metal gasoline cans on a dirt floor for extended periods.

Dispose of waste gasoline properly

- Handle old or dirty gasoline as hazardous waste. Bring it to a household hazardous waste collection site in a proper gasoline container.

What To Do If A Petroleum Spill Occurs

First, stop the discharge and prevent any further spillage. Then contact your local fire department. If the spill affects any surface or groundwater, or if the spill is greater than 25 gallons, you must notify the N.H. Department of Environmental Services at (603) 271-3644 during normal working hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday). At all other times, contact with the DES may be made via N.H. State Police Dispatch at 1-800-346-4009.

Disclaimer:

Information contained in this Fact Sheet is current as of January 1, 2004. Statutory or regulatory changes that may occur between January 1, 2004, and the expiration date of this Fact Sheet may cause part or all of the information to be invalid. If there are any questions concerning the status of this information, please contact DES at (603) 271-3644.